Mr. John Wilkins

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PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

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To the INHABITANTS of the WESTERN COUNTRY, by HUGH HENRY BRACKENRIDGE.

(Continued from our laſt.)

THERE are ſeveral particulars on which I mean to touch; and with the conſideration of which I ſhall conclude this addreſs.

In the firſt place, with reſpect to a law paſſed the laſt ſeſſion, *to direct and authorize the laying out an highway through this ſtate from the waters of the river Potowmac to the river Ohio, in order to extend and facilitate the intercourſe which is deſigned to be opened between the ſaid rivers.*

This was a buſineſs which came before the houſe very early in the firſt ſeſſion. It was founded on a letter from the governor of Virginia putting the ſtate of Pennſylvania in mind of *former* letters addreſſed to them by the ſtate of Virginia on that ſubject. It inſtantly ſtruck me as an object in which the intereſt of the weſtern country was greatly concerned. If by the preſent exertions of Virginia and Maryland, the navigation of the Potowmac is improved ſo much as is expected, that river will certainly be a great channel of import to the weſtern country. It may be a channel of export alſo. The land carriage from the mouth of Cumberland, or from the mouth of Savage river, or from ſome higher point, to the neareſt navigable part of the Yohagany or Monongahela is not great. When a good road is made and kept in repair, this carrying place will ſeem to be greatly diminiſhed in diſtance. It is thought by ſome that this channel of import will finally prove the natural one to the countries at the head of the Ohio river. Be this as it may, it is certainly the intereſt of this country to have communications opened and intercourſe facilitated, with all people and by all channels.

It was the requeſt of Virginia to have the privilege granted to that ſtate to extend the road which they were already authoriſed to cut through Maryland; to extend it through Pennſylvania, to ſome of the waters of the Ohio, and to keep it in repair at their own expence. This was doing for the weſtern country what otherwiſe it ought to have done for itſelf.

When this buſineſs was taken up I was ſtruck with an idea that it would be oppoſed by the mercantile intereſt of the eaſtern counties; and by the counties of York, Cumberland, and Franklin eſpecially; as it would draw the back trade from them. But ſo it was that either not reaching the conſequence; or what, ought to be preſumed, having the public ſpirit to conſult the intereſt of every part of the commonwealth, and the general good of men whether of one ſtate or another, the members of theſe counties gave no oppoſition. A bill was introduced agreeable to the requeſt of the ſtate of Virginia, and carried through the ſeveral ſtages until it paſſed into a law.

I would take the liberty to aſk William Findley how came it to paſs that this buſineſs was neglected during the laſt year? By inſpecting the files I found a bill had been introduced but not the leaſt farther notice taken of it. Thus the buſineſs lay until the ſtate of Virginia wrote again on the ſubject. Was it not the duty of a repreſentative of the weſtern country, to have taken up this buſineſs and carried it into effect ſpeedily. I cannot tell what uſe the ſtate of Virginia may now make of it, but certainly it was the intereſt of this country to put it in the power of that ſtate to do what was propoſed. The heſitation to comply with her requeſt placed Pennſylvania in an unfavorable point of view with Virginia. She began to doubt our liberality or our attention.

The paſſing of this law gave ſatisfaction to Virginia and removed the unfavorable impreſſions which had been made. As a member of the houſe, I have myſelf received the compliments of ſome of the principal people of that government, whoſe views are directed to the improvement of the navigation of the Potowmac, and to an intercourſe with our country.

A ſecond particular, which I mean to touch is the law which has been publiſhed for conſideration, *to remove the ſeat of juſtice of Weſtmoreland.* This was a buſineſs brought on by Findley and Barr, on their return from the weſtern country at the commencement of the laſt ſeſſion. It was brought forward with an argument that it was a meaſure that would give ſatisfaction to a great majority of the people. Hence it would ſeem that the location of the ſeat of juſtice at Greenſburgh, was improper.

I ſhould aſk then who are to blame for this location? I think it will originate in a great degree with William Findley himſelf. We find by a law of 1781, it is enacted, that Benjamin Davies, Michael Rough, John Shields, John Powrey, and Hugh Martin, or any three of them, ſhall take aſſurance, of, &c. with reſpect to the location of the ſeat of juſtice. *It ſhall not be further eaſt, than the Nine Mile Run nor further weſt than Bruſhy Run further north than Loyal Hanna, nor further ſouth than five miles ſouth of the old Pennſylvania road leading to Pittſburgh*

The idea is held out by this law that there might be a propriety in placing the ſeat of juſtice *five miles ſouth of the old road.* At the ſame time three of the truſtees, if I am not miſtaken, reſide *ſouth of the old road.* It was what any man of the leaſt reflection, and capacity of connecting circumſtances, might have ſeen would be the conſequence. William Findley was at this time a popular member of the houſe, and it was fully in his power to have prevented this law; nay, I preſume it would give him offence to ſuppoſe that without him, it could have had exiſtence.

I ſhew that the law naturally led to the location of the ſeat of juſtice where it is, but I give no opinion with reſpect to the propriety or impropriety of the location. The inconvenience of wanting a court-houſe, gaol, &c. had been ſo ſenſibly felt, that it became deſirable to have the ſeat of juſtice fixed almoſt any where, rather than not to have it fixed at all, and therefore when it was announced to us that public buildings were erected at Greenſburgh, I was amongſt the firſt to declare in favor of a removal to that place.

From the time I ſaw the court houſe and jail which were erected, I conceived it was unneceſſary to expend money in building any other. This ſentiment I expreſſed to John Irwin of Bruſh Creek, and he approved of it. It was agreed by us that the remainder of the 1000l. might be applied to leſſen the county tax for the next year.

The law ſuſpending the power of the truſtees, and to which law I gave my hearty aſſent, was no more than carrying into effect, what had before appeared to be expedient.

A writer immediately ſubſequent to our election, who ſigns himſelf *A Friend to his Country*, ſpeaks of *a whiſper amongſt the people that the ſeat of juſtice would be removed, and is at a loſs to what to attribute it*; whether owing to any previous intimation to this effect thrown out by ſome *ſolicitous candidate*, as a well ſcented bait." I can ſay that whether a *ſolicitous candidate** or otherwiſe I gave no ſuch *intimation*

At the time of paſſing the law *to ſuſpend the power of the truſtees*, I did not entertain an idea of a removal; but declared to the houſe, William Findley alſo declaring, that it was not our intention to go further than to arreſt the unneceſſary expenditure of public money. Early in the laſt winter in a publication in the gazette, I ſtated this to the public, and obſerved, that as to a remove, we could not with a "good face trouble the houſe on the ſubject." This I intended as an apology to thoſe who were violent in the deſire of a removal. However I have been abuſed for my moderation. I ſhould have thought nothing if the advocates of a removal had attacked me. I expected it from them. But that the advocates of Greenſburgh ſhould attack me was extraordinary. A writer who ſigns himſelf, *A Friend to Weſtmoreland*, obſerves, "we are told by this gentleman, (he ſpeaks of me) *in his apology to his diſappointed friends*, that there is not the leaſt proſpect of the removal of the ſeat of juſtice, and that no one could with a good face trouble the houſe *again** on that ſubject, yet we find that either himſelf or his colleagues have been able to aſſume a countenance expreſſive of the dictates of a heart fraught with envy and wickedneſs, to trouble it upon a ſubject equally ridiculous and unjuſt." What envy I could have of this town God knows; I have none to build of my own; and what motive of wickedneſs I could poſſibly have, I could wiſh he had ſaid.

Agreeable to my declaration in the houſe, it is not my intention to countenance the removal. At the ſame time I do not know that I have any buſineſs with oppoſing it. It is a local object, and it will be but decent in me to leave it to Findley and Barr, who reſide in that part of the country, and know the ſentiments of the people.

It is true if theſe members ſhould *oppoſe and prevent* the paſſing into a law the bill publiſhed for the erecting a county comprehending the town of Pittſburgh, it would ſeem reaſonable that oppoſition ſhould be given to the removal of the ſeat of juſtice from Greenſburgh, becauſe it would be hard on the people who expect to be comprehended within the new county, and who at all events muſt one day be ſeparate, and erect buildings for themſelves; that they ſhould in the mean time pay towards erecting buildings at Hanna's town.

A third particular is that to which I have juſt had a reference, the bill publiſhed for conſideration, *for erecting parts of Waſhington and Weſtmoreland counties into a ſeparate county.* This bill was brought forward to the preſent ſtage of it with great difficulty. What may be the event of it, I know not. Our weſtern members are ſome of them oppoſed to it; particularly the members of Waſhington. The Weſtmoreland members as to what has been ſaid or done by them in the houſe, have hitherto appeared favorable. By information of language which they have uſed out of doors, and by language uſed to myſelf, on their return to the ſecond ſeſſion, I have been led to doubt their good diſpoſition on this ſubject at preſent.

But ſurely William Findley particularly will not wiſh to forfeit the good opinion which the people of Pittſburgh ſeem to entertain of him, as a ſenſible and enlightened legiſlator. Will he not forfeit that opinion deſervedly by oppoſing this object? I ſhould think ſo. The improvement of a town depends greatly on imagination. The idea of future greatneſs, introducing people, and this producing that greatneſs. For as the town is made, it makes commerce. The idea of Pittſburgh being made a ſeat of juſtice, will aſſiſt it infinitely by the effect it will have on the minds of people at a diſtance. It is immaterial what it is that gives faſhion and concourſe to a place. It makes its fortune. At the ſame time the convenience and advantage of a ſeat of juſtice in this place, is ſolid and certain. Is not the increaſe of a town the increaſe of agriculture? Pittſburgh is the only place in the weſtern country which bids fair to be a place of eminence. Why then not cultivate it? Aſſiſtance to it now, like a ſmall ſum to a man beginning the world, is of more ſervice than twice the aſſiſtance at a future period.

It is the complaint of the repreſentatives of the city of Philadelphia, at preſent in the houſe, that our weſtern members uniformly oppoſe the intereſt of that capital. I hope the inhabitants of Pittſburgh may not have it to ſay that our weſtern members uniformly oppoſe the intereſt of this town. I do not know that they have oppoſed the intereſt of it hitherto, but they have certainly neglected it. This I think a fault for every houſe that is built in Pittſburgh, adds a value to every tract of land in the weſtern country.

A fourth particular relates to the academy inſtituted at Pittſburgh. It is inſtituted, but not endowed. I had it in view to have obtained a part of the reſerved tract of 3000 acres oppoſite the town of Pittſburg, from the inſtant ſale of which ſome immediate aſſiſtance might be drawn. I laboured hard for it; but there were a variety of obſtructions.

Some would conſent to grant it from the lower end but not from the upper; others from the upper end but not from the lower. Kennedy of Cumberland found out that it was againſt the conſtitution to grant

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* There are ſome individuals who know me not to have been a *ſolicitious candidate*; particularly George Wallace and David Duncan of Pittſburgh, to whom I recommended droping me in the election, and rather preſſing the return of John Irwin, of Bruſh Creek, as I had been convinced from his converſation that he had the ſame view of things that I had, and would labour to accompliſh the ſame obſects; and it would be more convenient for him to go than for me.

* I did not uſe the word *again*, that would imply we had troubled them before.

any part for this purpose, as it had not been inserted in the bill at the second reading and published for consideration. Construed with strictness there may have been something in this, but I believe if all that was not substantially set forth on publication, was struck out of our laws, the code would be reduced to a skeleton. The truth is, at the second reading of the bill which was during the first session, I could not venture to introduce it. The minds of the house were not prepared to receive it. By the third reading which was during the second session, I had engaged a considerable number in favor of it, with whom, counting on the assistance of Findley and the western members, I expected to have carried it. Findley did not support it by any observations, and those who usually rise or sit with him were against it. It did not strike me to attend to see how he voted.

A negative was put upon it: some of the opponents declaring at the same time that if I would bring in a bill for a grant of lands out of the quantity reserved for the use of schools, they would have no objections. A bill of this nature (being prepared for the worst) I had in my pocket, and taking them at their words, begged leave to bring it in. Leave was given. It was read a first and second time, and is published for consideration. It is published with a blank, Why not have filled up that blank with ten thousand acres? Because it was best to leave it open, for it may be filled up with twenty thousand. But the best of the sixty thousand acres are appropriated. The secretary of the land office assured me, if my memory serves me, that a warrant has not issued for a single acre of it.

It has given offence; for as a member of the house, I have been warmly expostulated with, that the trustees of this academy are of one or two denominations of Christians. All I can say, is that it is provided by the law which constitutes the school that individuals of any denomination may be trustees; and as to the denominations of those appointed by the law, if they are out of one or two, it is of accident not design. I had the nomination of the greater part, and I thought no more of the religious denomination of any one than of the clothes he wore the last time I saw him. I nominated those chiefly who resided in the town of Pittsburgh, or near it, and would attend to the business of the academy: nay, indeed of those, as the blank was filled up hastily at the time of the third reading of the bill, and not expecting the western members would leave it to me to nominate the greater part, I had not made out a list, and therefore suggested those names which first occurred to my mind, conceiving that the trustees then nominated, and who are invested with the power of chusing their successors, would elect [illegible] to distinction of religious denomination.

I shall now conclude this address. I had intended to have made some general observations which might be of service to the country, and perhaps to have touched on some subjects of moment, which though they do not respect this country particularly, yet are interesting to it as a part of the commonwealth. But I may accomplish this at a future period. I shall drop my pen for the present.

P. S. A writer who signs himself *A Real Farmer*, in the last gazette; in some of his strictures, has evidently a reference to me. I charge William Findley with being the author of this production; and I charge the production with containing from the beginning to the end, what cannot be supported. On what foundation do I charge Findley? His language, his turn of thought, especially in personal abuse, are as well known to me as his voice. You may be mistaken in both. It is possible; and if he disavows it I shall ask his pardon. If not, I shall conceive myself justifiable in considering him as the author, and making my strictures at some future period accordingly. In the mean time I aver, that I have had nothing to say directly or indirectly, with the production of what is called the *Conemaugh Farmer*, nor am I answerable for a single word advanced in it. But, if I am not mistaken, William Findley, or any for him, will not find it prudent to have hinted that the gentleman who is supposed to be the author of that performance, could be *subservient to me* in the manner insinuated.

Messrs. Scull & Boyd,

IT is particularly pleasing to find your paper meritoriously growing on the public esteem. Mr. B----'s address to the public is not only entertaining, but in the highest degree useful; by such means only can we, who are by our local situation, removed a considerable distance from the seat of government, receive information of what is doing in the great world, know who are our friends, what political measures are framed either for or against us, and other useful information, very necessary for us to be instructed in.

In your paper of the 19 ult. Mr B. gives us a relation of the business transacted in the house of assembly relative to the public roads in this state, to which the yeas and nays are annexed; were it not that Mr. B.'s authority is respectable, particularly so as he is a member, no person would give credit to that account; but as it is, we are much puzzled to conceive on what principles our western members voted against the measure. A neighbour of mine, who is a great oddity in his way, is sure he has found out the reason, and asserts that they oppose the repair of the public roads on the same principles many combat inoculation for the small pox. I must leave it to the public to find out the anology.

Not being quite so systematical as my neighbour, I have endeavoured to discover the principles of this opposition on natural grounds, but am as wide of the mark as he is; As the arguments in favour of the bill have been sufficiently pointed; and in my opinion conclusively handled by members of the first abilities, it would be premature in me to offer any; therefore I am left to form conjectures, what reasons our worthy members can possibly suggest against it.

The first no doubt is the enormous tax of six thousand pounds proposed as a fund for carrying on the improvements and repairs of the public roads in the state. Taxes are already too high, and can scarce be collected in specie, particularly in the western counties, we cannot therefore submit to more burthens, let the roads alone to the counties. A second reason no doubt, is this, good roads would encourage the importation of foreign luxuries, particularly that species of it, where good clothes and decent apparel would be easily come at by the farmers. In the back woods this would be considered as a great grievance, here, the outward garment is an infallible proof of the inward man.

The next, and I believe the truest conjecture I can make is, that tho' our members are honest, they have not the abilities to conceive at all times the interest of their constituents, it is therefore our duty as freemen to point out and direct their conduct in the assembly.

Now with regard to the road bill proposed, I think I could convince a *blockhead* that the measure is highly useful to this part of the country, all must acknowledge it to be a wise political measure. The three western counties have hitherto generously paid one half of the proposed tax, yet *that* has not been for the benefit of the roads. I am certain the last three years they have paid full this sum on the advanced price of goods. In the year 84 no less than 63 waggons unloaded at Pittsburg. The last two years indeed had not so many; every merchant in the place will allow me to state these waggons each to draw £ 50 of carriage. Who pays this carriage? The farmers and consumers in the country. An evil equally as much felt is the real loss of circulating specie which these waggoners carry off. It is a notorious fact, that the carriers principally belong to the lower counties: were the roads put in repair and kept in good order the carrier would make more money at 15s. per Cwt. than he now does at five and forty.

It would however appear, from reading your gazette, that the members on this side the mountains are equally afraid of exportation as they are of importation. Perhaps they think that if we have bread to eat, it is more than we deserve, and for this cause our state shall remain silent on the Mississippi business.

In the above statement it appears there is a nett saving to the public of 30s. per Cwt. besides leaving that sum in specie to circulate as opportunity or necessity required.

The public will observe, I have not taken the least notice of the numbers of pack horses bringing goods hither, a method of conveyance absolutely necessary in the present condition of our roads, altho' often very unprofitable to the employers: were the roads repaired would not sleighs be a good substitute in winter instead of packhorses.

If we expect any good on this side of the mountains our first assistance will be from easy and cheap communication with the lower counties: at the same time, I leave to the public to judge whether or not these counties ought to bear a part in the tax; it is plain we pay it all now, whilst they have the profit.

To exemplify this matter. Suppose a countryman wants to buy one hundred weight of nails for flour, &c. he now purchases at 15d per lb. which amounts to 7l. 10s. this he pays with flour at 15s. Now were the roads in good repair he could purchase them at one shilling, which would only amount to 5l. In this single transaction he saves fifty shillings, out of which he would have to pay eight or ten in taxes for his horses; extend this example to what dealings a man may have, and it will convince the least discerning the utility of such a law.

I could say a great deal on this subject, but conceive it improper as the abilities and knowledge of those who have handled it are infinitely superior to any thing I could advance.

One observation however I cannot pass, viz. the country *people here*, in general suppose that store goods cost the store keeper nothing, now as it is evident they cost hard cash for carriage, at the rate of sixpence per pound, I would request my country readers to instruct the members to have the road bill enacted into a law; then we shall have store goods at *half nothing*.

NO CARRIER.

Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, Jan. 31.

BY the most recent accounts from Paris we hear, that the finances of France have been in a declining state ever since the celebrated Mr. Neckar left the management of them, and are now found to be in a very deplorable condition. To take into consideration this great object, and remove an evil which endangers the national credit, suggested the idea of convening the nobles.

Feb. 6. The troubles in France, and the troubles in Holland, all tend to the advantage of this country. The failure of the paymaster of the navy in Paris, has occasioned so great a distress in the commercial world, that the best bills in Paris are done at 7, 8, nay 10 per cent. discount. As to the Dutch, many of the first families are coming to settle among us, which must tend to support our funds. A bill for naturalizing a Dutch gentleman of professional rank is expected to be brought into the house of lords in a few days, and it is imagined more bills of the same kind will follow it.

A gentleman passing the Old Bailey, on Wednesday, after the execution of the malefactors, overheard two of the mob (who appeared to be candidates for the same exaltation) observe, 'that it was as shabby an execution as he had ever seen, and that the new Jack Ketch was but a poor hand; a clever fellow might have hanged four in the time he was tying up one.' In this serious estimation do the lower class of people hold this awful punishment.

By letters from the Hague of the 6th instant, accounts are received, that "an event quite unexpected, has raised considerably the hopes of the Orange party in the republic in general, and in the province of Zealand in particular; it is a private act of confederacy between the principal regents, and inhabitants of that province, already signed by a very great number, and which was made public within these two days. By the tenor of the said act, the subscribers engage themselves to maintain the present constitution, as being the best possible for the state; and principally to support the prerogatives and privileges attached hereditarily to the posts of stadtholder, captain and admiral general: the said act having taken care, moreover, to make it understood, that there never was any room to reproach the administration of the illustrious prince of Orange and his house.

"Another event not less remarkable in the present circumstances, is the terrible riot that has happened in the town of Goes, in the same province of Zealand: upwards of forty houses have been pillaged and devastated there, by the populace of the Orange party: thus it is, that the high and the low in Zealand, viz. the opulent and the mob, are marching to attain their ends, each by the road fittest for them; the former by signatures and the latter by violence. However, it is expected that this famous act of confederation will be parodied by another of the same kind, in which it will be said and signed, that many abuses have crept into the so much boasted administration of the post of the stadtholder, it is necessary to redress them. As to the excesses committed at Goes, the partiotic party do not intend to make reprisals; but only to hang the ringleaders of that tumult, and take the most rigorous measures to prevent the renewal of them, either there or elsewhere."

Feb. 12. M. Picco, corresponding member of the Royal Society of Medicine, at Paris and Turin, relates an account of six persons who were poisoned by eating of mushrooms, which may be denominated Agaricus Conicus. Four of them died in consequence of their refusal of the remedies that were offered: the other two were restored to health. The cures were performed by emeticks; for vomiting, without loss of time, is the principal relief that can be adopted against the corrosive and suporifick poison of mushrooms, when followed by the use of softening and mucilaginous substances to correct the impression made on the primæ vitæ, and prevent inflammation, which, in such cases, generally terminate in a gangrene. In a postscript annexed to this narration, M. Picco states the following, "I have received a letter from M. J. Reycends, dated the 29th of last August, he tells me, that he learned from M. Enoch, superior of the orotory in the seminary of Grenoble, that a family in Ghent, which had been poisoned by mushrooms, were cured by an infusion of pear tree leaves drank as tea, having ineffectually tried several other remedies. This reminds me of the great confidence that the ancients who recommended it to

any part for this purpose, as it had not been inserted in the bill at the second reading and published for consideration. Construed with strictness there may have been something in this, but I believe if all that was not substantially set forth on publication, was struck out of our laws, the code would be reduced to a skeleton. The truth is, at the second reading of the bill which was during the first session, I could not venture to introduce it. The minds of the house were not prepared to receive it. By the third reading which was during the second session, I had engaged a considerable number in favor of it, with whom, counting on the assistance of Findley and the western members, I expected to have carried it. Findley did not support it by any observations, and those who usually rise or sit with him were against it. It did not strike me to attend to see how he voted.

A negative was put upon it: some of the opponents declaring at the same time that if I would bring in a bill for a grant of lands out of the quantity reserved for the use of schools, they would have no objections. A bill of this nature (being prepared for the worst) I had in my pocket, and taking them at their words, begged leave to bring it in. Leave was given. It was read a first and second time, and is published for consideration. It is published with a blank, Why not have filled up that blank with ten thousand acres? Because it was best to leave it open, for it may be filled up with twenty thousand. But the best of the sixty thousand acres are appropriated. The secretary of the land office assured me, if my memory serves me, that a warrant has not issued for a single acre of it.

It has given offence; for as a member of the house, I have been warmly expostulated with, that the trustees of this academy are of one or two denominations of Christians. All I can say, is that it is provided by the law which constitutes the school that individuals of any denomination may be trustees; and as to the denominations of those appointed by the law, if they are out of one or two, it is of accident not design. I had the nomination of the greater part, and I thought no more of the religious denomination of any one than of the clothes he wore the last time I saw him. I nominated those chiefly who resided in the town of Pittsburgh, or near it, and would attend to the business of the academy: nay, indeed of those, as the blank was filled up hastily at the time of the third reading of the bill, and not expecting the western members would leave it to me to nominate the greater part, I had not made out a list, and therefore suggested those names which first occurred to my mind, conceiving that the trustees then nominated, and who are invested with the power of chusing their successors, would elect some such with a view to distinction of religious denomination.

I shall now conclude this address. I had intended to have made some general observations which might be of service to the country, and perhaps to have touched on some subjects of moment, which though they do not respect this country particularly, yet are interesting to it as a part of the commonwealth. But I may accomplish this at a future period. I shall drop my pen for the present.

P. S. A writer who signs himself *A Real Farmer*, in the last gazette; in some of his strictures, has evidently a reference to me. I charge William Findley with being the author of this production; and I charge the production with containing from the beginning to the end, what cannot be supported. On what foundation do I charge Findley? His language, his turn of thought, especially in personal abuse, are as well known to me as his voice. You may be mistaken in both. It is possible; and if he disavows it I shall ask his pardon. If not, I shall conceive myself justifiable in considering him as the author, and making my strictures at some future period accordingly. In the mean time I aver, that I have had nothing to say directly or indirectly, with the production of what is called the *Conemaugh Farmer*, nor am I answerable for a single word advanced in it. But, if I am not mistaken, William Findley, or any for him, will not find it prudent to have hinted that the gentleman who is supposed to be the author of that performance, could be *subservient to me* in the manner insinuated.

Messrs. Scull & Boyd,

IT is particularly pleasing to find your paper meritoriously growing on the public esteem. Mr. B----'s address to the public is not only entertaining, but in the highest degree useful; by such means only can we, who are by our local situation, removed a considerable distance from the seat of government, receive information of what is doing in the great world, know who are our friends, what political measures are framed either for or against us, and other useful information, very necessary for us to be instructed in.

In your paper of the 19 ult. Mr B. gives us a relation of the business transacted in the house of assembly relative to the public roads in this state, to which the yeas and nays are annexed; were it not that Mr. B.'s authority is respectable, particularly so as he is a member, no person would give credit to that account; but as it is, we are much puzzled to conceive on what principles our western members voted against the measure. A neighbour of mine, who is a great oddity in his way, is sure he has found out the reason, and asserts that they oppose the repair of the public roads on the same principles many combat inoculation for the small pox. I must leave it to the public to find out the analogy.

Not being quite so systematical as my neighbour, I have endeavoured to discover the principles of this opposition on natural grounds, but am as wide of the mark as he is. As the arguments in favour of the bill have been sufficiently pointed, and in my opinion conclusively handled by members of the first abilities, it would be presumptive in me to offer any; therefore I am left to form conjectures, what reasons our worthy members can possibly suggest against it.

The first no doubt is the [illegible] tax of six thousand pounds proposed as a fund for carrying on the improvements and repairs of the public roads in the state. Taxes are already too high, and can scarce be collected in specie, particularly in the western counties, we cannot therefore submit to more burthens, let the roads alone to the counties. A second reason no doubt, is this, good roads would encourage the importation of foreign luxuries, particularly that species of it, where good clothes and decent apparel would be easily come at by the farmers. In the back woods this would be considered as a great grievance, here, the outward garment is an infallible proof of the inward man.

The next, and I believe the truest conjecture I can make is, that tho' our members are honest, they have not the abilities to conceive at all times the interest of their constituents, it is therefore our duty as freemen to point out and direct their conduct in the assembly.

Now with regard to the road bill proposed, I think I could convince a *blockhead* that the measure is highly useful to this part of the country, all must acknowledge it to be a wise political measure. The three western counties have hitherto generously paid one half of the proposed tax, yet *that* has not been for the benefit of the roads. I am certain the last three years they have paid full this sum on the advanced price of goods. In the year 84 no less than 63 waggons unloaded at Pittsburg. The last two years indeed had not so many; every merchant in the place will allow me to state these waggons each to draw £ 50 of carriage. Who pays this carriage? The farmers and consumers in the country. An evil equally as much felt is the real loss of circulating specie which these waggoners carry off. It is a notorious fact, that the carriers principally belong to the lower counties: were the roads put in repair and kept in good order the carrier would make more money at 15s. per Cwt. than he now does at five and forty.

It would however appear from reading your gazette, that the members on this side the mountains are equally afraid of exportation as they are of importation. Perhaps they think that if we have bread to eat, it is more than we deserve, and for this cause our state shall remain silent on the Mississippi business.

In the above statement it appears there is a nett saving to the public of 30s. per Cwt. besides leaving that sum in specie to circulate as opportunity or necessity required.

The public will observe, I have not taken the least notice of the numbers of pack horses bringing goods hither, a method of conveyance absolutely necessary in the present condition of our roads, altho' often very unprofitable to the employers: were the roads repaired would not sleighs be a good substitute in winter instead of packhorses.

If we expect any good on this side of the mountains our first assistance will be from easy and cheap communication with the lower counties: at the same time, I leave to the public to judge whether or not these counties ought to bear a part in the tax; it is plain we pay it all now, whilst they have the profit.

To exemplify this matter. Suppose a countryman wants to buy one hundred weight of nails for flour, &c. he now purchases at 1/6 per lb. which amounts to 7l. 10s. this he pays with flour at 15s. Now were the roads in good repair he could purchase them at one shilling, which would only amount to 5l. In this single transaction he saves fifty shillings, out of which he would have to pay eight or ten in taxes for his horses; extend this example to what dealings a man may have, and it will convince the least discerning the utility of such a law.

I could say a great deal on this subject, but conceive it improper as the abilities and knowledge of those who have handled it are infinitely superior to any thing I could advance.

One observation however I cannot pass, viz. the country *people here*, in general suppose that store goods cost the store keeper nothing, now as it is evident they cost hard cash for carriage, at the rate of sixpence per pound, I would request my country readers to insist on the members to have the road bill enacted into a law, then we shall have store goods at *half nothing*.

NO CARRIER.

Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, Jan. 31.

BY the most recent accounts from Paris we hear, that the finances of France have been in a declining state ever since the celebrated Mr. Neckar left the management of them, and are now found to be in a very deplorable condition. To take into consideration this great object, and remove an evil which endangers the national credit, suggested the idea of convening the nobles.

Feb. 6. The troubles in France, and the troubles in Holland, all tend to the advantage of this country. The failure of the paymaster of the navy in Paris, has occasioned so great a distress in the commercial world, that the best bills in Paris are done at 7, 8, nay 10 per cent. discount. As to the Dutch, many of the first families are coming to settle among us, which must tend to support our funds. A bill for naturalizing a Dutch gentleman of professional rank is expected to be brought into the house of lords in a few days, and it is imagined more bills of the same kind will follow it.

A gentleman passing the Old Bailey, on Wednesday, after the execution of the malefactors, overheard two of the mob (who appeared to be candidates for the same exaltation) observe, 'that it was as shabby an execution as he had ever seen, and that the new Jack Ketch was but a poor hand; a clever fellow might have hanged four in the time he was tying up one.' In this serious estimation do the lower class of people hold this awful punishment.

By letters from the Hague of the 6th instant, accounts are received, that "an event quite unexpected, has raised considerably the hopes of the Orange party in the republic in general, and in the province of Zealand in particular; it is a private act of confederacy between the principal regents, and inhabitants of that province, already signed by a very great number, and which was made public within these two days. By the tenor of the said act, the subscribers engage themselves to maintain the present constitution, as being the best possible for the state; and principally to support the prerogatives and privileges attached hereditarily to the posts of stadtholder, captain and admiral general: the said act having taken care, moreover, to make it understood, that there never was any room to reproach the administration of the illustrious prince of Orange and his house.

"Another event not less remarkable in the present circumstances, is the terrible riot that has happened in the town of Goes, in the same province of Zealand: upwards of forty houses have been pillaged and devastated there, by the populace of the Orange party: thus it is, that the high and the low in Zealand, viz. the opulent and the mob, are marching to attain their ends, each by the road fittest for them; the former by signatures and the latter by violence. However, it is expected that this famous act of confederation will be parodied by another of the same kind, in which it will be said and signed, that many abuses have crept into the so much boasted administration of the post of the stadtholder, it is necessary to redress them. As to the excesses committed at Goes, the partiotic party do not intend to make reprisals; but only to hang the ringleaders of that tumult, and take the most rigorous measures to prevent the renewal of them, either there or elsewhere."

Feb. 12. M. Picco, corresponding member of the Royal Society of Medicine, at Paris and Turin, relates an account of six persons who were poisoned by eating of mushrooms, which may be denominated Agaricus Conicus. Four of them died in consequence of their refusal of the remedies that were offered: the other two were restored to health. The cures were performed by emeticks; for vomiting, without loss of time, is the principal relief that can be adopted against the corrosive and suporifick poison of mushrooms, when followed by the use of softening and mucilaginous substances to correct the impression made on the primæ vitæ, and prevent inflammation, which, in such cases, generally terminate in a gangrene. In a postscript annexed to this narration, M. Picco states the following, "I have received a letter from M. J. Reycends, dated the 29th of last August, he tells me, that he learned from M. Enoch, superior of the orotory in the seminary of Grenoble, that a family in Ghent, which had been poisoned by mushrooms, were cured by an infusion of pear tree leaves drank as tea, having ineffectually tried several other remedies. This reminds me of the great confidence that the ancients who recommended [illegible]

those who have suffered by eating mashrooms.

We hear, with infinite concern, that lord North is at this time so much indisposed, by an infirmity in his eyes, that it is feared his lordship will irrecoverably loose his sight.

Orders were sent on Monday from the war office, for the embarkation of a number of troops on board transports, now in preparation to sail for the West-Indies in America.

Monday some advices were received at the secretary of state's office from the governor of Quebec, brought by a ship just arrived at Grenock from Canada.

American Occurrences.

ALBANY, May 3.

The following order of the governor of Quebec, for opening a commercial intercourse between the United States and that province, was handed us by a gentleman from Fort George, on Sunday last.

GUY LORD DORCHESTER,

Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Province of Quebec, &c. &c.

To Thomas Ainsley, Esq. Collector, and Thomas Scott, Esq. Comptroller, and others, Officers of the Customs of the province of Quebec.

L. S. IT being represented to me, that a commercial intercourse may be carried on between this province and the neighbouring states, to the advantage of this province and of Great-Britain under certain restrictions, by land and the inland navigation on the route and communication through lake Champlain.

You are accordingly authorised and required (until ordinances can be made for the more fully regulating the said inland trade with the neighbouring states) to permit the free importation, by that route, of masts, yards, bowsprits, spars, oak or pine plank, boards, futtocks, ship-timber, hoops, staves, shingles, clapboards, or any other sort of lumber, pitch, tar, turpentine, tallow, or any kind of naval stores, hemp, flax, and their seeds, wheat, rye, Indian corn, peas, beans, potatoes, rice, oats, barley, and all other species of grain, horses, neat cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and all other species of live stock and live provisions, and whatever else is the growth of the said states.

And you are also authorised and required, to permit the free importation from this province, into the said states, or either of them, of any article of the growth, produce or manufacture of this province, or of any other the dominions of Great-Britain, and furs, peltries of every kind excepted.

And you and the several officers concerned, are at the same time strictly charged and ordered, in all things, to conform yourselves to the act of parliament granting authority to his majesty for issuing his royal order in council, for regulating the trade between the dominions of Great-Britain and the United States of America, and to the order and directions contained in his majesty's orders in council, respecting all importations into this province by sea, and to cause the several laws made for the preventing the bringing any foreign rum or spirits, or (except from Great-Britain) any goods or manufactures of any foreign European country or of Asia, into this province, or any other of the British provinces and colonies, to be duly and effectually enforced.

Given under my hand and seal, at arms, at the Castle of St. Lewis, at Quebec, the 18th day of April, in the 27th year of his majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord. 1787.

(Signed) DORCHESTER.

By his Excellency's command,
Henry Motz, Sec'y.

A true copy,

Henry Pope.

Pittsburgh, June 9.

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated May 14.

"Yesterday evening came to this city, his excellency general Washington, one of the delegates from the state of Virginia, to the federal convention. His arrival was announced by a salute of the United States from the train of artillery, and the ringing of bells: he was escorted from Chester by the city troop of horse."

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"An ordinance for the sale of the western lands has passed in Congress, and offices for selling the same are to be opened. The price is fixed at a dollar per acre, to be paid in public securities. A contract is also entered into for the coinage of 280 tons of copper, in halfpence, for which privilege the united states are to receive 15 per cent."

From the Pennsylvania Packet.

The NEWS-MONGER.

AN insect lives among mankind
For what wise ends by fate design'd,
I never yet could clearly find.

In pain for all, and thank'd by none,
And most perplext when most alone,
No state regards him, or the throne.

The flowers that deck the summer field,
The vernal bloom that frost conceal'd,
To him no spark of pleasure yield.

He life supports on self-esteem;
He plans, contrives, and lives by scheme,
And spoils good paper---many a ream.

Distrest for those he never saw---
Of kings and princes not in awe
He scorns their mandates and their law.

Relief he finds for other's woes,
The wants of all the world he knows---
His boots are only out at toes.

Now Europe's feuds employ his brains,
Now Asia's news his head contains---
But still his labour's for his pains.

The river Scheldt he opens wide,
And Joseph's ships in triumph ride;
The Dutchmen are not on his side.

Ong eat affairs condemn'd to fret,
The interest of our foreign debt
He hopes good Louis may forget.

He fears the bank will hurt our trade,
And fall it must without his aid---
And yet his barber goes unpaid.

Our western posts (that Britons keep
In spite of treaties) break his sleep:
He plans their conquest at one sweep.

He grumbles at the price of flour:
Then mourns and mutters many an hour
That Congress have so little power.

Although he has no ships to lose,
The Algerines he dare abuse,
And longs to hear some better news.

The French, he thinks, will soon prepare
To undertake some grand affair---
"So 'tis but war, we need not care."

Where Missisippi laves the plain,
He hopes the bold Kentucky swain
Will seize her forts and plague Old Spain.

Such morning thoughts, such evening dreams!
Thro' long dull nights he plans odd schemes
To dispossess her of those streams.

He propheſies the time will come
When few shall drink West-India rum,
Our spirits will be proof at home.

The tories on New Scotland's coast,
He deems, may all their freedom boast
In half a century, at most.

Then shakes his head, and shifts the scene,
Talks much about the empress queen,
And wonders what the Germans mean.

He doubts, and frets, and seems afraid
The states will lose by China trade,
Since dollars for their tea are paid;

Then hopes that by the month of June
Lunardi, in his new balloon,
Will make a passage to the moon.

Thus, all the business of mankind,
And all the follies we might find,
Are huddled in his crazy mind;

'Till doom'd to think of new affairs,
At last with death he walks down stairs,
And leaves---the wide world to his heirs.

Philadelphia, Feb. 19, 1787.

THE inhabitants of Washington county, will take notice, that Messrs. Redick & Hoge are reinstated in their former district, consisting of the whole county of Washington, and that all surveys made after the first day of this present month (June 1787) will be received in the surveyor general's office from them only.

Conveyancing.

AGREEMENTS, Assignments, Awards, Bargains and Sales, Bills of Sale, Bonds, Covenants, Deeds, Grants, Leases, Letters of Attorney, Letters of Licence, Mortgages, Partnership, Releases, Settlements, Wills, &c. &c. Drawn by the subscriber at his office in Chancery-lane, Pittsburgh, at a moderate price.

June 4. ROBERT GALBRAITH.

THE subscriber having lent the IVth volume of Sterne's Works, elegantly bound and gilt; as also the IId. volume of the Works of Alexander Pope: cannot now recollect to whom these books were lent: will take it exceedingly kind of those who may find them to forward them to Mr. William Christy, jun, at the store of G. F. & E. B. in Market-street. One if not both of these books have the subscribers name in the first page.

EDWARD BUTLER.

Pittsburg, June 6, 1787.

WHEREAS my wife Rosanna Bradin, did in the month of May last past, commit adultery with Robert Hawthorne, as appeared by sundry respectable witnesses, and as such a crime is so detestable against the laws of God and man, I am determined not to live with her any longer. Therefore I give this public notice to all persons whatever not to credit her on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date.

WILLIAM BRADIN.

Pittsburgh, June 7, 1787.

N. B. Ten Dollars Reward will be given by the subscriber for apprehending said Hawthorne.

WHEREAS a certain Jonathan Philips did obtain seven separate bonds of the subscriber, one of which became due in April, 1787, and the remaining six to be paid yearly from that date, they being in consideration of a tract of land said Philips sold to me. I do hereby forewarn all persons from taking an assignment of said bonds, as there is a considerable part of the land sold to me which I cannot obtain, and I do not intend paying for any more than I hold unless compelled by law.

THOs. B. PATTERSON.

Forty Dollars Reward.

DESERTED from my command at Venango, the following described persons, viz.

James Robinson, five feet eight inches high, well made, twenty-three years old, fair, fresh complexion, sandy hair, born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Patrick Colbert, five feet, five inches high; well proportioned, dark complexion, black hair short and curly, born in Ireland.

James Mortimer, five feet 5 inches high, dark complexion, short black hair, born in the state of New-York.

Michael Henesy, five feet 9 inches high, a robust-looking fellow, brown hair, a little freckled, pitted with the small pox; born in Ireland.

Whoever secures the above deserters, so that they may be brought to me at Venango, shall receive the above reward, or in proportion for either of them.

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JONATHAN HEART, capt. 1st American Regiment, in the service of the U. S.

WHereas the partnerſhip of Hugh Gardner and John Cowan was diſſolved the 10th inſt. this is to inform the public that the Subſcriber will be accountable for no debts or concerns of Mr. Gardner's after that day, as alſo to inform all perſons concerned, that thoſe who are now indebted to ſaid company for bread, will not pay their accounts without having my diſcharge, as I ſhall look to ſuch debtors for ſaid accounts until I have a ſettlement with Mr. Gardner; thoſe to whom ſaid company are indebted are requeſted to leave a copy of their accounts with Mr. Gardner, ſo that I may have a final ſettlement of this concern. JOHN COWAN.

Pittſburg, May 10, 1787.

POST-OFFICE,

Philadelphia, March 2, 1787.

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DAVID DUNCAN.

Pittſburgh, March 8, 1787.

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Who buys and ſells all kinds of CERTIFICATES of this ſtate, or any of the United States.

Philadelphia, Sept. 2, 1786.

The Famous HORSE

EXPERIMENT,

WILL cover this ſeaſon, at the ſtable of the ſubſcriber living in Pittſburgh, at the low rate of ſix dollars the ſeaſon; three dollars the ſingle leap: and two buſhels of oats: or twelve dollars for enſuring a colt.

Experiment was bred by Col. William Churchill, in Middleſex, old Virginia; his ſire King Herod, who was got by old Fearnought, out of the high bred imported mare Kitty Fiſher; his dam by Othello; his grand dam by Childers; his great grand dam by the imported horſe Dancing Maſter.

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Pittſburgh, July 28.

DANIEL BRITT & Co. once more call on thoſe indebted to the late houſe of Craig, Bayard & Co. to come and ſettle their accounts, as they need not expect any further lenity.

Pittſburgh, Dec. 20, 1786.

WHEREAS a Mr. Richard Graham, who was a deputy ſurveyor, ſurveyed a tract of land for the ſubſcriber, for which he gave him a promiſſory note for about four pounds, and the ſaid ſurvey being rejected by the ſurveyor general was therefore uſeleſs to the ſubſcriber. Notice is hereby given, that the ſubſcriber will not pay ſaid note unleſs compelled by law.

May 5, 1787 JAMES SMITH.

Juſt Publiſhed, and to be ſold wholeſale and retail, by the printers hereof,

THE

A, B, C,

WITH THE

Shorter Catechiſm,

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Some SHORT and EASY QUESTIONS for CHILDREN.

WHEREAS a certain Andrew Robertſon of the town of Pittſburg, obtained two notes of hand dated the 25th January 1787, and payable the firſt of this month (April) the one for ſeventy pounds, to be paid in country produce, the other for thirty pounds to be paid in ſpecie. And ſince I gave the aforeſaid notes to the ſaid Robertſon, I find he has given an aſſignment of the one for ſeventy pounds. I hereby forwarn any perſon to take an aſſignment on the one for thirty pounds, as I am determined not to pay it, until the ſaid Andrew Robertſon fulfils an engagement entered into, in conſequence of which he obtained the above mentioned notes from me.

WILDAY TAYLOR.

Duncard Bottom, April 27, 1787.

FOR SALE, BY

ROBERT BROWN,

At the houſe of Mr. James Chambers, in Pittſburgh.

A General aſſortment of pot metal and iron: alſo a quantity of dry goods, rum, wine, and ſalt, which will be ſold on the loweſt terms for caſh or country produce.

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By the dozen or ſingle one, may be had at the printing-office.

CLAIMS againſt the UNITED STATES.

Office of accounts, Marine Department, New-York January 1, 1787.

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